

4-1-1967

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Brian M. Murray

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### Recommended Citation

Murray, Brian M. (1965) "The Authorship of some Unidentified or Disputed Articles in Blackwood's Magazine," *Studies in Scottish Literature*: Vol. 4: Iss. 3, 144–154.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol4/iss3/3>

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BRIAN M. MURRAY

### The Authorship of some Unidentified or Disputed Articles in *Blackwood's Magazine*

Some time ago I was privileged in being allowed to examine the letter-books dealing with the early years of *Blackwood's Magazine* and a number of account-books whose entries throw light on the authorship of several hitherto unattributed articles in that periodical.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the facilities for research granted me by the firm of Blackwood, and to thank Professor Alan Lang Strout, whose friendly letters and excellent monograph on *Blackwood's*<sup>1</sup> have been of invaluable assistance and encouragement to me. His *Bibliography* has placed all students of the period in his debt.

This present study covers the 1817-1825, or Strout, period; in the second part I shall attempt to determine the authorship of articles up to and including 1834.<sup>2</sup>

April 1819. No. XXV. Vol. V.

"Catholic Legends." (p. 52) Strout: J. H. Merivale (?)

Confirmed by letter of Blackwood to Merivale (13/4/19). Blackwood is delighted with the "Popish Legends" which will appear in this number.

June 1819. No. XXVII. Vol. V.

"Song." Signed X. (p. 322)

Blackwood to B. W. Procter (18/6/19): "Your two beautiful little pieces included at p. 322." The first is "Night, a Poem," signed C.

March 1820. No. XXXVI. Vol. VI.

"St. Priest Papers (1699-1707)." Strout: J. H. Merivale (?)  
(p. 633)

<sup>1</sup> Alan Lang Strout. *A Bibliography of Articles in BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE Volumes I Through XVIII 1817-1825*. (Lubbock, Texas, 1959).

<sup>2</sup> To avoid the multiplication of references to the various bodies of unpublished material consulted, I shall refer to them under the general heading of "Account Book." At a later date I propose to give a detailed account of this work.

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I think this and the sequel, "Selections from the St. Priest MSS. No. II," (April 1820) are by John Galt, as Blackwood writes to Galt (28/3/20), "The St. Priest Papers came too late for this no. but will appear in the next. The first series of them you will see in this no."

May 1820. No. XXXVIII. Vol. VII.

"Glimpse into the Third Volume of  
Wrangham's Works." (p. 176).

Strout: John Wilson (?)

Confirmed by Blackwood to Wrangham (16/3/20). Blackwood has been expecting the review from Wilson "and it will assuredly appear in my April number."

January 1821. No. XLVI. Vol. VIII.

"Schiller's The Sport of Fortune."  
(p. 375)

Strout: Thomas de Quincey (?)

Blackwood wrote to de Quincey (6/1/21) rating him for lateness and demanding "remainder of the article this evening." Blackwood does not name the article he awaits so impatiently, but I feel this reference strongly suggests this one.

April 1821. No. XLIX. Vol. IX.

"Second Letter from the Man in  
the Moon." (p. 10).

Strout: George Croly (?)  
(doubtful)

Blackwood regrets (7/4/21) to Croly that the latter has no articles in this month.

"Revery in the Garden of Plants."  
Signed Amicus. (p. 16).

On 16/1/21 there is a memo for Blackwood to send "proofs of *Reverie* to Dr. Milligan, 21, College St.," which suggests Edward Milligan, M.D.<sup>3</sup>

June 1821. No. LI. Vol. IX.

"Capt. Parry's Voyage." (p. 289)

John James Halls (?). On 20/2/21 Blackwood asks Halls for an article on Parry's work for the next number.

August 1821. Part II. No. LIV. Vol. X.

"An Expostulatory Round Robin from  
Fourteen Contributors." (p. 116)

Strout: R.F.St.Barbe (?)

Confirmed by Blackwood's letter to St. Barbe (24/8/21).

<sup>3</sup> I owe Milligan's first name to Dr. Thomas Rae, of the National Library of Scotland.

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September 1821. No. LV. Vol. X.

"Prospective Letter concerning Poetry."

Signed Q. (p. 125)

William Howison is paid for this in the firm's Account Book.

"Dr. Scott's Return from Paris!" (p. 214) Strout: John Galt (?)

This is in Galt's *The Steamboat* (1822), p. 284ff.

"The Late Queen." (p. 222) Strout: George Croly (?)

Blackwood thanks Croly for his contribution (24/9/21). It is described as "timely" or "lively," but I cannot be certain which. At any rate, this would seem to refer only to this article.

October 1821. No. LVI. Vol. X.

"The Buried Alive." (p. 262)

This is from Chapter XV of John Galt's *The Steamboat* (1822).

November 1821. No. LVII. Vol. X.

"The Emigrants' Voyage to Canada."

(p. 455)

Strout: John Galt (?)

In a letter to John Howison (8/1/22) Blackwood details the latter's publications, mentioning that the "Emigrants" is 14½ pp., as it is. No doubt the "five guineas for the American Memoirs" referred to by Prof. Strout were payment for "Howison's Canada," December 1821. This review contains several extracts from the text and has only about 2½ pages of comment, which makes the remuneration reasonable.

The "American Memoirs" which Galt estimated at 10 guineas would be Galt's payment for the Preface to *Memoirs of a Life . . . Chiefly in Pennsylvania*, by Alexander Graydon. On pp. 35-37 of an account book in the possession of Messrs. Blackwood, appears a detailed account of the firm's financial transactions with Galt, including "By American Memoirs £ 10.10."

December 1821. Part I. No. LVIII. Vol. X.

"Howison's Canada." (p. 537)

Strout: John Galt (?)

See above for evidence of Galt's authorship.

December 1821. Part II. No. LIX. Vol. X.

"A Letter concerning Haydon's Paintings."

Signed H. (p. 680)

Strout: J. J. Halls (?)

The Account Book pays William Howison for 1½ pp. on this topic, which is 1½ pp. long.

"The Pirate." (p. 712)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

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"Lyndsay's Dramas of the Ancient  
World." (p. 730) Strout: John Wilson (?)

Both attributions are confirmed by a letter of Blackwood to Maginn (22/12/21) explaining that he has had to lengthen the magazine "to make room for the Pirate by L and Lyndsay and the State Rumour by the Prof."

"Shetland Fisheries." Signed R.  
(p. 728) Strout: R.F.St.Barbe (?)  
(doubtful)

I think this is confirmed by Blackwood to St. Barbe (22/12/21) saying the latter's articles are in.

January 1822. No. LX. Vol. XI.

"Lockhart's Valerius." (p. 94) Strout: George Croly (?)  
Several letters from Blackwood refer to this article before he says (21/2/22) the review is now ready.

February 1822. No. LXI. Vol. XI.

"The Parisian Mirror; or Letters  
from Paris. Letters I, II"  
Signed Polyanthus. (p. 217) Strout: Eyre Evans Crowe (?)

Prof. Strout suggests Eyre Evans Crowe as the author, but Blackwood's letters to Arthur Clifford prove the latter's authorship. ". . . your letter from Paris is deferred to next month. I hope you will send me in good time another letter which will go along with it." (10/1/22)

"Domestic Politics." (p. 242) Strout: George Croly (?)  
Blackwood to Maginn (18/2/22), "I was sadly at a loss for a political article when I received Croly's. . . ." Then, writing to Croly (23/2/22) he confirms this attribution.

March 1822. No. LXII. Vol. XI.

"The Widow's Tale, and other  
Poems." (p. 286)  
Letters from Blackwood to R.F.St.Barbe on several occasions confirm his authorship.

"The Parisian Mirror; or Letters  
from Paris, III, IV." (p. 335) Strout: Eyre Evans Crowe (?)  
Arthur Clifford—see evidence under February 1822.

June 1822. No. LXV. Vol. XI.

"American Poetry." (p. 684) Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)  
(doubtful)

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Blackwood's letter to Eyre Evans Crowe (22/6/22) ascribes the article to Crowe.

"The Magic Lantern." (p. 715)                      Strout: John Wilson or  
another, with hints  
by Galt.

In a letter from Blackwood to Galt (11/6/22) he says, "got today one of the Professor's very best articles on Lady Blessington's Book. . . ." Thus it would appear that John Wilson is the sole author.

August 1822. No. LXVII. Vol. XII.

"The Enchanter Faustus and Queen  
Elizabeth." (p. 230)                      Strout: George Croly (?)

Apparently Croly was only an intermediary, as Blackwood writes to him (22/6/22), "Faustus could not be inserted. . . . It will be used. . . . You can give the author 2 or 3 guineas. . . ." This leaves the author unknown, presumably a friend of Croly's.

January 1823. No. LXXII. Vol. XIII.

"Horae Germanicae. No. XIV. von  
Houvald's The Light-Tower." (p. 3)                      Strout: Lockhart and Gillies

Robert Pearse Gillies is paid for 12 pp. ("Hor. Ger. and frag. 2p.") which indicates this article and the following one as his alone.

"Fragment. From the Swedish of Akenthal."  
Signed R. (p. 14)

R. P. Gillies, evidence as above.

March 1823. No. LXXIV. Vol. XIII.

"Ebenezer Elliott's Love; a Poem."  
(p. 321)                      Strout: John Wilson (?)

The Account Book confirms this tentative ascription.

July 1823. No. LXXVIII. Vol. XIV.

"The Pyrenees." (p. 13)                      Strout: George Croly (?)  
Confirmed by letter of Blackwood (25/7/23).

August 1823. No. LXXIX. Vol. XIV.

"History of the Garden of  
Plants." (p. 121)                      Strout: James Wilson (?)

Account Book: "J. Wilson, To Cash Nov 23 1823." I think this proves Wilson's authorship of Part II of the "History of the Garden of Plants" (Nov. 1823) and, probably, of Part I above.

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November 1823. No. LXXXII. Vol. XIV.

"Public Credit—Project in Aid  
of it." Signed Pierre Philosophe.  
(p. 516)

Strout: Mr. Starke (?)

Henry Thomson (Titus) is assigned this in the Account Book:  
"By Credit 3½ p."

"History of the Garden of Plants.  
Part II." (p. 577)

Strout: James Wilson (?)

Evidence for James Wilson under August 1823.

December 1823. No. LXXXIII. Vol. XIV.

"The Chancellor and the Edinburgh  
Review." (p. 627)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart

Strout's attribution is confirmed by the Account Book, where  
Lockhart is credited with 8 pp. on this subject.

February 1824. No. LXXXV. Vol. XV.

"Letters of Timothy Tickler.  
No. XIV." (p. 144)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart

Strout's attribution is confirmed by the Account Book, which pays  
Lockhart for 7 pp. on the subject.

"Southey's Life of Wesley."  
(p. 208)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)  
(doubtful)

Confirmed by Account Book, which pays Lockhart for 11 pp. on  
Wesley.

"Lectures on the Fine Arts. No. II.  
On Henry Alken and others." Signed  
M. M. (p. 219)

Strout: John Wilson

J. G. Lockhart is paid for 5 pp. on the Fine Arts in the Account  
Book.

"Little or Nothing." Signed P.—  
(p. 224)

Strout: P. Danton (?)

Henry Thomson (Titus) is paid for 1½ pp. on this topic in the  
Account Book.

March 1824. No. LXXXVI. Vol. XV.

"The Recent State Papers concerning  
South America." (p. 351)

Strout: David Robinson (?)

J. G. Lockhart is the author of the introductory page, being paid  
for 1 p. on "So. America" in the firm's Account Book.

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"Noctes Ambrosianae. No. XIII."

(p. 358)

Strout: Maginn in collaboration

J. G. Lockhart is paid for 2 pp. in the Account Book.

April 1824. No. LXXXVII. Vol. XV.

"Matthews in America." (p. 424)

Strout: Henry Thomson (?)

Confirmed by Account Book.

May 1824. No. LXXXVIII. Vol. XV.

"Letters of Timothy Tickler.

No. XV." (p. 558)

Strout: Maginn and Lockhart

Lockhart's share is 4 pp., since he is credited with them in the Account Book.

"Fine Arts." Signed D. B. (p. 566)

Strout: John Galt (?)

Lockhart is credited with 1 p. on this topic in the Account Book.

"Remarks on the Novel of

Matthew Wald." (p. 568)

Strout: John Wilson (?)

Account Book credits Lockhart with 11 pp.

"Maxims of Mr. Odohertry." (p. 597)

Strout: Maginn, perhaps  
assisted by Lockhart

The Account Book credits Lockhart with 3 pp. on the subject.

July 1824. No. XC. Vol. XVI.

"Remarks on Henderson the

Historian." Signed Sir Morgan

Odohertry. (p. 1)

Account Book assigns this to Lockhart.

August 1824. No. XCI. Vol. XVI.

"Ballad." (p. 230)

By T. Crofton Croker. A letter of Blackwood's (25/8/24) states  
that he has included T. Crofton Croker's ballad.

September 1824. No. XCII. Vol. XVI.

"Maxims of Morgan Odohertry.

Part III." (p. 334)

Strout: William Maginn,  
J. G. Lockhart, and  
William Hay Forbes

J. G. Lockhart wrote 6 pp. of this, according to the Account Book.

October 1824. No. XCIII. Vol. XVI.

"Horae Germanicae. No. XIX.



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Goetz von Berlichingen." Signed  
P.K. (p. 369)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart,  
perhaps assisted by  
R. P. Gillies

The Account Book credits Lockhart with all 16 pp.

November 1824. No. XCIV. Vol. XVI.

"Buchanan's Memoirs of Painting.  
British Galleries of Art."  
(p. 505)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

Assigned to Lockhart by the Account Book.

December 1824. No. XCV. Vol. XVI.

"Examination of the School of  
Southside." Signed W.W. (Altrive).  
(p. 653)

Strout: R. F. St. Barbe (?)

Writing on 24/11/24, Blackwood holds over St. Barbe's amusing  
sketch, but prints his love story. I think the sketch is the article  
under discussion.

January 1825. No. XCVI. Vol. XVII.

"State Counsel, by the Statesmen  
of Cockaigne." (p. 34)

Strout: David Robinson (?)

Confirmed by Account Book, which credits Robinson with this  
topic.

"Remarks connected with the Criticism  
of Poetry." (p. 74)

Strout: Alexander Blair (?)

Small Account Book, "Mr. A. Blair. London. Remarks on Criti-  
cism." Also, Blackwood to Blair (22/1/25) hopes that Blair will  
find his "remarks correctly printed in this no."

"Noctes Ambrosianae. No. XVIII."  
(p. 114)

Strout: Maginn with Wilson  
or Lockhart in col-  
laboration (?)

The Account Book gives Lockhart 10 pp. of this "Noctes."

March 1825. No. XCVIII. Vol. XVII.

"Works of the First Importance.  
No. I. Antommarchi's Last Days  
of Napoleon." (p. 323)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

"Retsch's Outlines of Fridolin."  
(p. 327)

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"Narrative of the Death of Blanche  
of Bourbon." (p. 328)

Account Book credits Lockhart with all three, although, as Prof.  
Strout points out, the third is not by him.

"Beck and Dunlop on Medical  
Jurisprudence." (p. 351)

W. H. Graham, in *Tiger Dunlop* (London, 1962), p. 37, ascribes  
this to John Wilson, without naming the source of his attribution,  
but the Account Book assigns it to J. G. Lockhart, paying him  
for 2 pp. on "Dunlop."

"The Illiberal. No. I." (p. 340)      Strout: David Robinson (?)  
(doubtful)

I assign this to William Maginn on account of Blackwood's letter  
to Maginn (14/2/25), "without another no. I could not have  
room for your excellent article The Illiberal and the Irish Songs  
and others which came later."

"Works of the First Importance. No. II.  
The Spirit of the Age." (p. 361)      Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)  
(doubtful)

The Account Book assigns this to John Wilson.

April 1825. No. XCIX. Vol. XVII.

"April Nonsense." (p. 415)      Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

D. M. Moir is credited with this by the Account Book.

"MS. Notes on the last Number of  
the Edinburgh Review." Signed A  
Constant Reader. (p. 461)      Strout: William Maginn (?)

"MS. Notes on the last Number of  
the Quarterly Review." Signed A  
Constant Reader. (p. 475)      Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

On the strength of Blackwood's letter to Maginn (16/3/25) I  
assign both the above to Maginn. Blackwood thanks Maginn for  
Tickler on the Quarterly, which he accepts just before closing the  
number. It is "very good indeed, as are your remarks on the  
Edinburgh."

May 1825. No. C. Vol. XVII.

"Number A Hundred. A New Song."  
Signed Christopher North, himself.  
(p. 505)      Strout: Wm. Maginn (?)

Confirmed by Blackwood to Maginn (23/4/25), "Christopher's  
Song is most glorious and opens this no. It is one of the most

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effective things not only of yours but of any that has ever appeared in *Maga*."

NOTE: Although listed in the Table of Contents as appearing on p. 505, this poem of eight eight-line stanzas actually appears on both sides of an unnumbered leaf inserted between pp. 504 and 505. It is missing in many copies.

June 1825. No. CI. Vol. XVII.

"Paddy Pumps of Cork to C. N.

Esq., at Edinburgh." (p. 681)      Strout: Horatio Townsend (?)

Confirmed by Blackwood to Townsend (24/5/25), "I beg to return my best thanks for Paddy Pumps."

"New Lights." Signed H. H. H. (p. 732)

David Robinson is credited with this by the Account Book and Blackwood's letter to Robinson of 24 May confirms this also.

July 1825. No. CII. Vol. XVIII.

"Mr. Blanco White's Evidence

against the Catholics." (p. 102)      Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

Blackwood to J. G. Lockhart (11/6/25) offers 20 guineas for 13 plus 4 pp., stating his pride in Lockhart's article, saying that it is a great effort "even from you." On 16 June he returns the MS at Lockhart's request, hoping not to lose the article and wondering if Lockhart is annoyed at not being offered more for it. I think the length of the article (which begins on p. 102, with the following article beginning on p. 119), and Blackwood's tone, can refer to this article only.

NOTE: The actual division of pages is 7 commentary to 10 extracts. This may negate my attribution, although I cannot see Blackwood letting go an article he coveted so much.

\* \* \*

The following are a few notes on the Appendix to Prof. Strout's bibliography. The information is drawn from the Account Books used for the material above, and from a list of contributors in Blackwood's handwriting.

January 1826. Vol. XIX.

Preface. (p. i)

John Wilson, William Maginn, David Robinson and John Galt are paid for 9, 17, 3, and 1 pp. respectively.

January 1828. Vol. XXIII.

"Managers of the Opera." (p. 91)      Strout: George Croly (?)

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"Military Uniforms." (p. 92) Strout: George Croly (?)  
 "Steam Carriages." (p. 94) Strout: George Croly (?)

All confirmed by Account Book.

February 1828. Vol. XXIII.

"Wilmot Horton and Emigration."  
 (p. 191) Strout: George Croly (?)  
 "Sentiment." (p. 194) Strout: George Croly (?)  
 "Inclosure Bills." (p. 195) Strout: George Croly (?)

All confirmed by Account Book.

October 1828. Vol. XXIV.

"Noctes Ambrosianae. No. XXXVII,  
 No. XXXVIII." (p. 501)

Wilson, Maginn, James White and James Hogg are credited with  
 20½, 17, 3, and 1 pp. respectively in the Account Book.

November 1828. Vol. XXIV.

"Postscript." (p. 592)

By John Wilson—Account Book.

"Noctes Ambrosianae. No. XXXIX." (p. 640)

Wilson, H. Coleridge and Johnston are credited with 21, 12, and  
 4 pp. respectively in the Account Book.

October 1829. Vol. XXVI.

"L'Envoy." Signed Christopher

North. (p. 716)

Strout: John Wilson (?)

Strout's conjectural attribution is confirmed by the Account Book.

July 1830. Vol. XXVIII.

"A Tale of Ararat." (p. 24)

Strout: J. B. Fraser (?)

Confirmed by Account Book.

"Ecloga. Christophorus—Dux—

Satelles." (p. 80)

Strout: John Warner

Strout notes that Warner assigns the work only one page; thus  
 the "translation" may be by another. The Account Book lists  
 "Translation. Mr. Hay, 1¾ p."

May 1834. Vol. XXXV.

"The Lay of Sir Lionel." (p. 635)

Strout: R. H. Barham (?)

The Account Book attributes it to "Billerby Leithby."

GLASGOW